

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11-15 are withdrawn from consideration, claim 2 is canceled, and claims 1 and 3-10 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Although not explicitly acknowledged by the Office Action, claim 2 has not been rejected. Accordingly, claim 2 also contains allowable subject matter.

II. §112 REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended to recite the phrase in a total amount of. Support for this amendment can be found in the instant specification. This amendment is not a narrowing amendment, as it makes explicit that which was implicit.

With respect to claim 7, the Office Action states that it is unclear whether the claimed application of residual stress by mechanical plating demand that the applied plating is retained in the claimed article. According to claim 7, the mechanical plating applies residual stress in the claimed article. Specifically, mechanical plating refers to a method in which a coating metal and grit are sprayed onto the surface of an article, so that the coating metal is crushed by sandwiching between the grit and the surface of the article. The coating metal is thereby mechanically adhered to the article surface. Therefore, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that the mechanical plating in claim 7 applies residual stress on the surface of the claimed article, and that the plating is therefore retained in the claimed article.

For at least these reasons, claims 4 and 7 satisfy the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. §102 and §103 REJECTIONS

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1, 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,561,834 to Score (Score), (2) rejects claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,703,304 to Lindberg et al. (Lindberg), (3) rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,956,531 to Church et al. (Church), and (4) rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Church. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As discussed above, claim 2 is not rejected over any of the cited references, and thus claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled and claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 2. Thus, claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Claims 3-10 depend from claim 1 and thus include all of its limitations. Accordingly, these dependent claims are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PAC

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